

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An optical component, comprising one or more retarder(s) in which is/are embedded retarders having embedded therein a plurality of images, the images being so arranged that, at any point in the plane of the component, an element of not more than one image is present, each image being associated being associated with a different interaction with polarised polarized light.
2. (Currently Amended) An optical component according to Claim 1, wherein there is a plurality of retarders in which the images are embedded, wherein the retarders having each independently have the same or different retardation values And.
3. (Currently Amended) An optical component , according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the images are embedded in one or more retarder(s) having specific image patterns, each having a different optical axis from the other specific image patterns.
4. (Currently Amended) An optical component according to any preceding Claim Claim 1, wherein the respective images are contained in alternate areas.

5. (Currently Amended) An optical component according to any preceding ~~Claim~~ Claim 1, wherein the respective images are contained in successive optionally parallel stripes.

6. (Currently Amended) An optical component according to Claim 4 or 5, wherein the areas or stripes are smaller or narrower than the eye can resolve, ~~enabling an optical component and~~ wherein one or more image(s) is/are (a) photographic image(s).

7. (Currently Amended) An optical component according to Claim 4, ~~5 or 6~~ 4 or 5, wherein there are ~~n mages~~ images, each respectively being represented on every nth stripe or nth area.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~Element~~ An element for protection against forgery and/or copying, ~~characterized by which comprises~~ an optical component according to ~~any one proceeding~~ Claims Claim 1.

9. (Currently Amended) A viewing system, comprising a source of ~~polarised~~ polarized light, an optical component according to any preceding ~~Claim~~ Claim 1, through which component the ~~polarised~~ polarized light can travel, and an ~~analyser~~ analyzer for light which has traversed the optical component, that ~~analyser~~ analyzer being rotatable about the axis of the direction of travel of the light; whereby, by rotating the ~~analyser~~ analyzer, peaks of maximum contrasts for each image are obtained at specific rotation angles of the ~~analyser~~ analyzer, enabling, at each such angle, ~~visualisation~~ visualization of a respective image not otherwise visible.

10. (Currently Amended) A system according to Claim 8 or 9, wherein the source of polarised polarized light is a polarising polarizing sheet applied to the surface of the component.

11. (Currently Amended) A system according according to Claim or 10 or 9, wherein the analyser analyzer is a polarising polarizing sheet.

12. (Currently Amended) A viewing system, comprising a reflector which that maintains the polarisation polarization direction of incident light, an optical element according to Claims 1 to 7 Claim 1 attached to said reflector, and a polariser which polarizer that is rotatable about the axis of the direction of travel of the light, such that light which has traversed the polariser polarizer and the optical component is reflected at said reflector and traverses a second time the optical component and said polariser polarizer; whereby, by rotating said polariser polarizer, peaks of maximum contrasts for each image are obtained at specific rotation angles of the polariser polarizer, enabling, at each such angle, visualization visualization of a respective image not otherwise visible.

13. (New) An optical component according to Claim 2, wherein the images are embedded in the retarders having specific image patterns, each having a different optical axis from the other specific image patterns.

14. (New) An optical component according to Claim 6, wherein there are n images, each respectively being represented on every nth stripe or nth area.